

A

A

24 April 1952

Special Research for Artichoke

1. On Wednesday, 23 April 1952, the writer had an extended conversation with [redacted] a consultant to this Agency and a ranking officer of the TSS organization. [redacted] expressed great interest in the Artichoke problem and closely related matters and stated to the writer that he personally would offer assistance both in research and in money to any projects along these lines that the writer might suggest. [redacted] stated that he did not wish official communications in these matters since he stated they were too slow, but suggested, with the approval of [redacted] that he be given a brief, informal memorandum covering projects which we felt were of material interest to the Artichoke project and which could be done by research within TSS or by contract or "farming out" to capable researchers or institutions. [redacted] stated that he felt that the Artichoke work was of extreme importance and no time should be lost in getting Artichoke research under way. He stated he would do everything in his power to expedite and carry out necessary research.

A

A

A

A

2. In view of [redacted] statements, on Thursday, 24 April 1952, the writer discussed the situation with [redacted] and [redacted] suggested that the writer draw up a list of suggestions related to Artichoke and that in the near future he ([redacted]), [redacted], and [redacted] and the writer could study these suggestions and determine which of them were suitable for research or for development otherwise.

3. Set forth on the following pages are a series of suggestions which are related to the Artichoke program and which the writer feels are worthy of exploration. Some of the suggestions are controversial and, in the opinion of the writer, they could be presented to outstanding authorities in the fields to be considered and it could be ascertained from these authorities whether or not full-scale research would be warranted.

4. For matter of record and to explain such subjects as electro-shock and lobotomy appearing in the attached list, these subjects were introduced into the conversation by [redacted]

A

~~SECRET~~

SUGGESTED FIELDS FOR SPECIAL RESEARCH RELATIVE ARTICHOKE

I. CHEMICALS (Including Drugs)

It is believed that specific research should be undertaken to develop new chemicals or drugs or to improve known elements for use in the Artichoke work. A study should be made to determine what drugs are best suited for direct use on subjects along the lines of amytal and pentothal and which drugs are best for indirect or long-range approach to subjects. This second type of drug should be one that could be administered over a considerable period of time, possibly being placed in food or water and would either have an agitating effect (producing anxiety, nervousness, tension, etc.) or a depressing effect (creating a feeling of despondency, hopelessness, lethargy, etc.). This study should include chemicals or drugs that can effectively be concealed in common items such as food, water, coca cola, beer, liquor, cigarettes, etc. This type of drug should also be capable of use in standard medical treatments such as vaccinations, shots, etc.

While there are literally hundreds of chemicals or drugs that effect the mental processes of an individual, many of these chemicals or drugs could be eliminated by individuals having special knowledge in the chemical/drug field. It is known that the Army Chemical Warfare Service has made exhaustive studies along these lines and perhaps they could furnish us with many specific answers. Men like ~~_____~~ could, undoubtedly, give pertinent information if they could be properly approached.

II. GASES, AEROSOLS, ETC.

It is felt that an exhaustive study should be made of various gases and aerosols that would be effective in Artichoke work. Also a study should be made of the effects of oxygen (or other similar type) deficiencies. In this connection, gas guns, jets or sprays, both concealed or open, should be studied. In addition, the problem of possible permanent brain injury and amnesia following lack of oxygen or exposure to other gases should be examined. (See related problems below.)

~~SECRET~~

(II. HIGH AND LOW PRESSURES

The effects of high and low pressures on individuals should be examined as a possible basis for Artichoke work.

IV. SOUND

The writer has been unable to obtain any worthwhile information on studies in this field that would apply specifically to the Artichoke problem. However, it is felt that a considerable amount of research could profitably be expended in the field of sound. This research should include the effect on human beings of various type of vibrations, monotonous sounds, concussion, ultra-high frequency, ultra-sonics, the effect of constantly repeated words, sounds, continuous suggestion, non-rhythmic sounds, whispering, etc.

(V. BACTERIA, PLANT CULTURES, FUNGI, POISONS OF VARIOUS TYPES, ETC.

This field may conceivably be valuable in that these media are capable of producing illnesses which in turn would produce high fevers, delirium, etc. It is also well known that species of the mushroom produce a certain type of intoxication and mental derangement. While this group of subjects is closely related to I above (DRUGS), it is conceivable that they could be handled as a different type of research. /be

VI. DIET, DIETARY DEFICIENCIES

This important subject has not been properly explored from the point of view of the Artichoke work. The removal of certain basic food elements such as sugar, starch, calcium, vitamins, proteins, etc. from the food of an individual over a certain period of time will produce psychological and physical reactions in an individual. A study should be made to determine whether or not the removal of certain food elements from the diet of prisoners over a given period of time will materially condition them for Artichoke work. Highly

spiced food and extremely salty foods are constantly reported in intelligence reports in connection with interrogation. While it is probable that this is solely to produce thirst, research may show that it has other effects.

In this connection, it is conceivably possible that if certain dietary deficiencies produce advantageous results from an Artichoke point of view, specially canned foods having elements removed could be manufactured or prepared for individuals held in custody.

VII. ELECTROSHOCK

This subject has been discussed at considerable length and still is considered a controversial matter. Whether or not its use as a positive weapon for gaining information from or control of an individual or whether it is another third-degree method does not seem clearly established to the writer. The foreign intelligence reports seem to reflect that electroshock, when used by the Soviets or their satellites, is primarily a third-degree method. We have been unable to find any indications that electroshock has been used to gain information from or control of an individual directly.


The writer has been unable to find anywhere that the electroshock coma has been used as a means of obtaining hypnotic control of an individual.

Whether an individual will reveal information as a result of electroshock, or while in an electroshock coma has not as yet been demonstrated to the writer and the writer, to date, has found no literature in this connection.

The low-powered electroshock found on the common electroshock machine is a third-degree method apparently.

Whether electroshock can produce controlled amnesias does not appear to be established except in the time area immediately surrounding the electroshock treatment and, although it is possible that severe or sustained electroshock may produce a vegetable, it is doubted if the Agency will support this activity.

The writer can find no information of electroshock treatments being applied to normal individuals for purely experimental purposes.



[REDACTED]

This field should be examined by the Medical Staff.

VIII. ELECTRO-NARCOSIS, ELECTRO-SLEEP INDUCING MACHINES

This field should be thoroughly explored. The idea of obtaining a sleep or sleeplike coma or a narcosis by electronics would appear to have a great deal of merit from an Artichoke point of view. The writer has been told that there are electronic sleep-inducing machines that are of the non-shock, non-painful variety. One of these was reported to be in use at the University of Richmond Hospital, Richmond, Virginia. Details, however, are lacking. Whether or not the machine is dangerous is unknown, but if an electronically induced sleep could be obtained and that sleep used as a means for gaining hypnotic control of an individual, this apparatus might be of extreme value to the Artichoke work.

IX. LOBOTOMY, BRAIN SURGERY

The writer is of the opinion that the Agency, under no circumstances, would consider this type of thing as an operative measure. However, it is felt that the subject could be examined by the Medical Staff to ascertain whatever value it may have and whether or not the Soviets could be using this technique as a weapon.

A a medical consultant of the Agency in the field of psychiatry, might be valuable in this connection.
A certainly would know who is regarded as an authority in this field and who resides in Washington, D.C.) This field should be examined by the Medical Staff.

X. LIGHT, POSSIBLE EFFECT OF COLOR, ETC.

The effects of glaring lights upon an individual are well known and have been a standard police procedure for years. By the same token, the use of white walls in connection with glaring lights appears to be another standard technique. While these and related techniques should be studied, the writer is of the opinion that

special research should be conducted to determine the effect of long and continuous exposure of individuals to infra-red and ultra-violet light. Some work might possibly be done involving opaque walls or walls upon which shadow movies could be projected. Also the effect of colors upon individuals might be worthy of research as a conditioning mechanism.

XI. PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

There are a great many psychological techniques that could be used in connection with the Artichoke work. Many of these techniques are well known and have been used by clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, and interrogators for a long time. It might be found that certain of these techniques, particularly if applied in reverse, would be highly advantageous to successful Artichoke operations. Among the psychological problems that might be considered for study would be:

- A. Moving or vibrating rooms.
- B. Distorted Rooms.
- C. The deliberate creation of an anxiety condition.
- D. The creation of panic, fear, or the exploitation of established phobias, etc.
- E. The effect of heat and cold.
- F. The effect of dampness, dryness or saturated or dry air.
- G. The general problem of disorientation.
- H. Completely soundproof areas.

XII. ELECTRONICS - GENERAL

There are many electronic devices of various types that may be important from an Artichoke point of view. For example -- can the electro-encephalograph be used as a device for detecting certain types of treatment that individuals have been subjected to? Does an electro-encephalograph reflect electroshock treatments or head

[REDACTED]

injury or drugging? Does an electro-encephalograph reflect whether or not an individual is under hypnosis? Can an electro-encephalograph be used to affirmatively establish whether an amnesia has been produced?

XIII. HYPO-SPRAY

It would be a great advantage if a small, effective hypo-spray device could be designed along the lines of a fountain pen. This, of course, would necessarily have to include some effective chemical or drug that could be used in this connection with the hypo-spray. This would be a very valuable weapon.

XIV. SCHEINTOT PISTOL

Set out immediately below is an excerpt from the publication entitled "LUCIAN CARY ON GUNS", (Fawcett Book 110), article entitled "Gadget Guns Mean Murder", page 122:

"Guns shooting tear gas were made in this country between the two world wars and many police departments bought them. One type was hardly intended for police use since it was no bigger than a fountain pen and was made to look like one. During World War II the Germans made what they called "scheintot" pistols. The German word literally means "appearance of death". The appearance-of-death pistols used a gas that renders a man unconscious as quickly as holding an ether cone over his nose."

This device should be run down. The writer would like to know the effective range of this weapon, the type of gas used and how long the coma condition lasts.

The writer knows that Lucian Cary is a well-known authority on guns and has written extensively on such weapons.